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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147833

FOR KAISER FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. TRADE AGREEMENT CONSULTATIONS - LUERS MET WITH STEVENSON ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 7. STEVENSON SAID HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN GETTING SENATE APPROVAL. IN HIS VIEW OPPONENTS IN THE HOUSE WERE VOTING AGAINST THE SOVIETS RATHER THAN AGAINST THE HUNGARIANS, WHEREAS SENATORS BY AND LARGE CAN AND WILL MAKE THE DISTINCTION AND RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. HE PROMISED TO HELP OUT IF WE DISCOVER "SOFT SPOTS". PELL TOLD LUERS ON JUNE 8 THAT HE SUPPORTS THE AGREEMENT AND WILL BE PLEASED TO MAKE A FLOOR STATEMENT. HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OPPOSITION. THE ONLY SURPRISE MIGHT COME FROM SOME SENATOR WITH A SPECIAL HANG-UP SUCH AS THAT LONG HAD IN 1974 REGARDING CZECHOSLO-VAKIA. WHEN LUERS MENTIONED THAT ;E ARE STILL UNCERTAIN
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WHETHER DOLE WOULD FIGHT IT, PELL SAID NO REPUBLICAN CAN STOP APPROVAL. IT IS ONLY OPPOSITION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE THAT WE SHOULD WATCH OUT FOR. (FOR YOUR INFO FRENZEL IS STILL PLANNING TO CONTACT DOLE TO TRY TO CONVINCE HIM NOT TO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT. FRENZEL ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO WORK ON OTHER REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AS WELL.)

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2. BILL LUERS CALLED ON SENATOR TALMADGE ON JUNE 9. TAL-
MADGE SAID HE HAD READ THE BACKGROUND SHEET ON THE AGREE-
MENT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND COULD SEE NO REASON TO
VOTE AGAINST IT. HOWEVER, HE WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE
IN CASE SOMETHING OBJECTIONABLE IS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTEN-
TION BEFORE THE VOTE. TALMADGE SAID HE WOULD RELY ON RIBI-
COFF'S OPINION.

3. RIBICOFF TOLD LUERS THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL MAKE IT
THROUGH THE SENATE WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY. NEITHER HE
NOR HIS STAFF HAD HEARD OF ANY SERIOUS OPPOSITION. RIBI-
COFF SAID WE WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF WE REDUCE OUR EFFORTS
ON BEHALF OF THIS AGREEMENT. OTHERWISE WE ARE LIABLE TO
STIR UP SOME OPPOSITION. HE TOLD LUERS HE HAS ASKED THAT
THE MARK-UP SESSION BE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22 OR 23 SO THAT
HE CAN BE IN TOWN.

4. IN VIEW OF RIBICOFF'S STRONG FEELINGS THAT WE SHOULD
LAY LOW ON THE AGREEMENT WE INTEND TO DO JUST THAT. WE
WILL NOT MEET WITH ANY OTHER SENATORS, BUT WE WILL CONTINUE
TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THEIR STAFFS AS REQUESTED. WE
WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER FAVORABLY INTERESTED
PARTIES TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS TO THEIR SENATORS.

5. ZOLTAN MERSZEI HAS SIGNED AN EXCELLENT LETTER TO ALL
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL GO IN THE MAIL ON MON-
DAY. WE HAVE POUCHED A COPY TO YOU.

6. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE MARK-UP SESSION HAS BEEN
SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22.

7. GEORGE VEST SAW HAYAKAWA AND EXPLAINED OUR VIEWS,
AFTER WHICH HAYAKAWA SAID HE WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND.
GEORGE ALSO SPOKE FOR TWENTY MINUTES WITH HAYAKAWA'S
SENIOR STAFF ASSISTANT, A LADY OF HUNGARIAN EXTRACTION,
WHO SAID SHE WOULD READ UP ON THE TESTIMONY BEFORE
RIBICOFF'S SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AND WOULD KEEP AN OPEN
MIND. THIS IS PROGRESS, INDEED. VANCE

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